TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Cone Meeting Room
Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Committee:
Present: Joseph L. Pellegrino, Chairman; William R. Finger, Jeffrey S. Ramer, Leslie L. Tarkington

Board: Robert Brady, Randall Huffman, Marc Johnson, Mary Lee Kiernan, Michael Mason, Arthur Norton

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; John Crary, Town Administrator; John Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; Fernando de Arango, Assistant Town Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Requests for Budget Adjustments

EO-2 Emergency Operations – Transfer $11,000

Transfer:
$ 11,000 to A104-51490 Professional Services NOC
$ 5,500 from A104-52020 Printing and Binding
$ 3,500 from A104-52100 Travel Expense
$ 2,000 from A104-52240 Telephone, Telegraph

Mr. Mynarski gave an explanation for the request and shared the Emergency Operations' budget and expenses, to date. Mr. Pellegrino stated that this was caused by tropical storm Irene and the October 2011 snow storm, requiring payment for seventeen more days, at $1,100/day, than originally contracted, and an application for reimbursement from FEMA will be submitted for this expense. Mr. Finger shared concerns regarding the compensation and expenses exceeding the budgeted amounts, and the need for review of the position. Mr. Pellegrino stated that a topic of discussion at the May, 2012 regular Budget Committee meeting will be a comprehensive review of the Emergency Coordinators, in relation to the comprehensive approach the Town takes to emergency preparedness and implementation of emergency plans.

A discussion followed regarding FEMA reimbursement rates, previous transfers, timekeeping, time management, responsibilities and duties.

The Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request and forward it to the Board of Estimate and Taxation as a non-routine application.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon a motion by Mr. Ramer, seconded by Ms. Tarkington, the committee voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 7:03 P.M. to discuss pending litigation matters.
In attendance were:
Peter Mynarski, Comptroller; Roland Gieger, Budget Director; John Crary Town Administrator
BET Members: Pellegrino, Ramer, Finger, Tarkington, Mason, Brady, Huffman, Johnson, Kiernan, Norton

The committee voted unanimously to leave executive session at 7:31 P.M.

NEW BUSINESS

Report of Status of Current Economic Conditions

The Committee reviewed the Selected Revenues and Spending Rate, March 2012, highlighting expenses, and fund balance. Mr. Gieger stated that conveyance revenues were at the highest level since last September. Mr. Pellegrino reported the Conveyance, Building Permits, and Interest income from FY 2006-2007 was $12,782,000, FY 2007-2008 was $14,709,000, FY 2008-2009 was $6,792,000, FY 2009-2010 was $7,907,000, FY 2010-2011 was $8,903,000, and FY 2011-2012 is an estimated $7,300,000. Mr. Pellegrino also shared comments regarding the reports' inclusion of the actual spending from FY 2008 through FY 2011, by department.

Nathaniel Witherell Cash Flow


Discussion of 10-Year Operating and Capital Models

The Committee reviewed the Town of Greenwich Ten-Year Budgetary Forecast and Mill Rate Model FY 2012-2022 and FY 2005-2015. Mr. Pellegrino asked the Committee to compare the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 budget prepared by the Comptroller five years previously to the actual budget passed by the Board this past month. In doing so, Mr. Pellegrino pointed out that overall, the Comptroller’s budgeting was very good, that Healthcare costs were significantly reduced from the old projection because of a strategy to reduce costs, that the Pension Contribution was significantly above the old projection because of the financial crisis, and that Other Revenues were also significantly below the old projection for the same reason. A lengthy discussion followed regarding strategies, economic trends, assumptions, pension funds, salaries, healthcare, fixed charges, debt limits, tax levy, mill rates, and fund balance.

Mr. Pellegrino requested that the Committee hold a special meeting in order to review each department’s ten-year Capital plan, prior to June 1, 2012.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Budget Committee Regular Meeting, March 13, 2012

Upon a motion by Mr. Finger, seconded by Mr. Ramer, the committee voted 4-0 to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2012, Budget Committee Regular Meeting.
There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Bocchino, Recording Secretary

Joseph L. Pellegrino, Chairman